

## **ABSTRACT**

This invention is directed to the use of crystallization acids, such as acetic, lactic and propionic acids, to obtain high purity polyhydroxyl cyclic carboxylic acids (PCCA) from low purity aqueous solutions. The preferred PCCA is shikimic acid and the preferred crystallization acid is acetic acid. The method according to the invention is particularly applicable to the isolation of shikimic acid from a fermentation broth.